

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully considered the June 21, 2005 Office Action, and the comments that follow are presented in a bona fide effort to address all issues raised in that Action and thereby place this case in condition for allowance. Claims 14-24 were pending in this application. In response to the Office Action dated June 21, 2005, claims 14-24 have been canceled and new claims 25-34 have been added. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Adequate descriptive support for the present Amendment should be apparent throughout the originally filed disclosure as, for example, the depicted embodiments and related discussion thereof in the written description of the specification. Applicants submit that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue. Entry of the present Amendment is respectfully solicited. It is believed that this response places this case in condition for allowance. Hence, prompt favorable reconsideration of this case is solicited.

Applicants respectfully request consideration and entry of the Information Disclosure Statement submitted concurrently herewith.

Claims 14-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yonetsu et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,506,513, hereinafter “Yonetsu”) in view of Hockaday et al. (U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2002/0182459, hereinafter “Hockaday”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claims 14-24 have been canceled and, therefore, the rejection is moot. Moreover, new claims 25-34 are patentably distinct over Yonetsu and Hockaday.

Independent claim 25 describes a fuel cell power generation equipment that uses liquid as a fuel. The equipment comprises fuel cells in which an anode and a cathode are formed with an electrolyte membrane in between. One or more air vent holes are provided on a wall surface of a

fuel container, and multiple fuel cells are mounted on the wall surface of the fuel container. The mounting parts of the fuel container on which the fuel cells are mounted have diffusion holes. The fuel cells are mounted on an outer wall surface of the mounting part so that the anode of the fuel cell opposes the outer wall surface of the mounting part, between the outer wall surface of the mounting part and the anode of the fuel cell. An interconnector is provided for electrically connecting the anode with an adjacent fuel cell, and the interconnector has a diffusion hole.

Independent claim 26 describes a fuel cell power generation equipment that uses liquid as a fuel. The equipment comprises fuel cells in which an anode and a cathode are formed with an electrolyte membrane in between. One or more air vent holes are provided on a wall surface of a fuel container, and multiple fuel cells are mounted on the wall surface of the fuel container. The mounting parts of the fuel container on which the fuel cells are mounted have diffusion holes. The fuel cells are mounted on an outer wall surface of the mounting part so that the anode of the fuel cell opposes the outer wall surface of the mounting part, between the outer wall surface of the mounting part and the anode of the fuel cell. An interconnector is provided for electrically connecting the anode with an adjacent fuel cell and the interconnector has a diffusion hole. The interconnector is connected to a cathode of the adjacent fuel cell. The fuel cell power generation equipment further comprises a cathode current collector, and the cathode current collector has a diffusion hole.

Yonetsu discloses a plurality of air vent holes as depicted in Figs. 6A and 8C and Hockaday discloses a single exit port in Fig. 2. However, it is not apparent where Yonetsu or Hockaday teaches or suggests a fuel cell power generation equipment including one or more air vent holes provided on a wall surface of a fuel container together with multiple fuel cells mounted on the wall surface of the fuel container by way of mounting parts with diffusion holes,

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as presently claimed. Accordingly, neither reference, alone or in combination, discloses or remotely suggests every limitation of independent claims 25 and 26.

It is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request an early and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application. If there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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